

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
NEW MEXICO MINING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2006**

Note: Draft minutes subject to review and approval by the Commission

The New Mexico Mining Commission meeting was convened at 10:04 A.M., December 12, 2006, in Porter Hall, 1st floor of the Wendell Chino building (Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department), located at 1220 South St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, New Mexico. The meeting was tape-recorded and the tapes are in the custody of the commission clerk.

The following members were present:

Gary King	Chairman and Public Representative
Jim Perry for Ron Curry	Environment Department
Andy Core	State Engineer's Office
John Bemis	State Land Office
Doug Bland for Peter Scholle	NM Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources
Steve Loring	NM Agricultural Experiment Station
Hank Saxe	Alternate
Sally Malavé	Commission Attorney

The following members were absent:

Lisa Kirkpatrick	Department of Game and Fish
Leroy Apodaca	Public Representative
Larry Winn	NM Soil and Water Conservation Comm.
Leroy Dugger	Alternate

Roll call

The Commissioners announce their own names.

Approval of the agenda

Chairman King asks if there are any changes to the agenda. Mr. Bland moves to adopt the agenda as provided, with second by Mr. Loring. Motion passes unanimously on a voice vote.

Adoption of the minutes of the November 16, 2005 meeting

Chairman King asks if there are any changes to the minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Core moves to adopt the minutes as provided, with second by Mr. Perry. Motion passes unanimously on a voice vote.

Discussion and adoption of the Open Meetings Resolution

Chairman King asks Ms. Malave whether the resolution is the same as that approved the previous year; the commission attorney affirms that it is. Motion by Mr. Bland to adopt the draft resolution, with second by Mr. Loring. Motion passes unanimously on a voice vote.

Mining Act Reclamation Program annual report

MMD Director Bill Brancard states that Holland Shepherd, program manager of the Mining Act Reclamation program (MARP), will provide the presentation. Mr. Shepherd provides the annual MARP report with a PowerPoint presentation that includes a discussion of program activities and initiatives for calendar year 2006. The presentation is followed by MARP staff permit leads providing a summary of reclamation activities at some of the state’s largest mines including Steve Lucero’s discussion of Molycorp, Terry Foreback’s discussion of Chino, and David Otori’s discussion of Tyrone. Commissioners ask several questions and are provided with a hardcopy of the report.

Director Brancard provides some summary comments on reclamation and the MARP program. He then advises the commission that there is a renewed interest in uranium mining in the state and provides a brief discussion on the history of uranium, the nature and occurrence of deposits, mining processes to extract it, and the regulatory environment, among other subjects.

Other business: legislative update and litigation update

legislative update: Director Brancard advises the commissioners that MMD has no pending legislation for the upcoming legislative session and is unaware of any initiatives by others. Mr Brancard also indicated that in 2007 MMD may review the recent changes to financial assurance rules to see if additional rule changes are needed.

litigation update: In response to a question from Mr. Bemis, Ted Apodaca provides a brief discussion of potential future litigation.

Gary King announced that he will be sending his resignation letter to the Governor due to his recent election win. MMD gave Chairman King a plaque for his service to the commission.

Adjourn

Mr. Bemis moves to adjourn, with second by Mr. Bland. Motion passes unanimously on a voice vote. Meeting recesses at approximately 12:01 P.M.

Approved:

Minutes by:

Gary King, Chairman

Date

John J. Pfeil, Commission Clerk